

ATTACHMENT I – Threatened & Endangered Species

1. Automatic reply to November 28, 2011 submittal to the DCR Division of National Heritage Resources website
2. Letter of December 19, 2011 in reply to the DCR Division of National Heritage Resources website submittal



Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

WebID: W634580912533281250

Client Project Number: VA0003646

PROJECT INFORMATION

TITLE: MeadWestvaco Covington

DESCRIPTION: Industrial Wastewater Discharge reissuance

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS: reissuance of VPDES Permit

QUADRANGLES: COVINGTON

COUNTIES: Alleghany, City of Covington

Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 374759/795932

Acreage: 2

Comments: Reissuance of Industrial VPDES Major Permit for a 5-year term.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Priority: No

Tier Level: 2

Tax ID:

Contact Name: Susan K. Edwards

Company Name: DEQ-West Central Regional Office

Address: 3019 Peters Creek Road

City: Roanoke

State: va

Zip: 24019

Phone: 540-562-6764

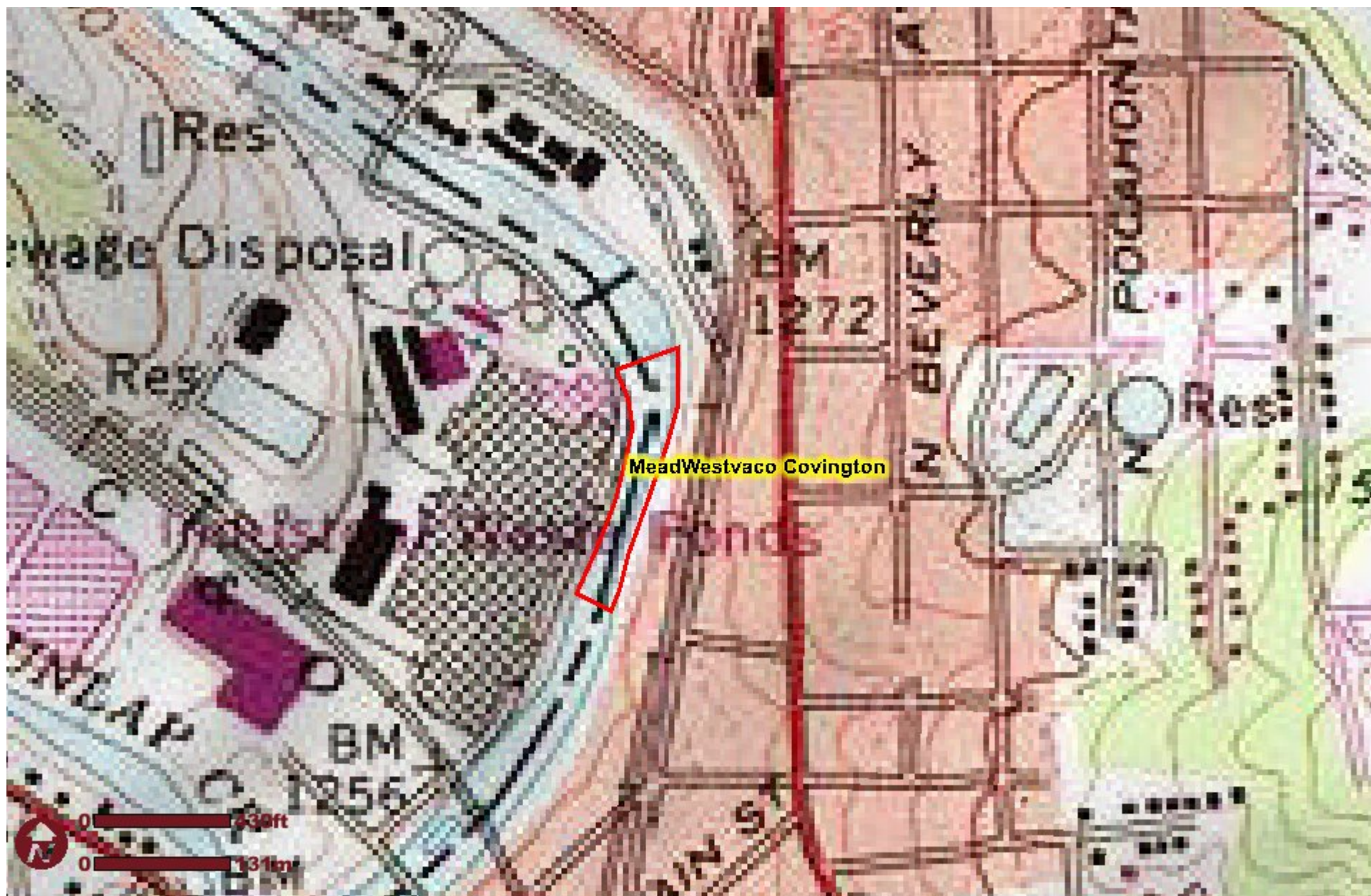
Fax: 540-562-6725

Email: Susan.Edwards@deq.virginia.gov

Conservation Site Name	Site Type	Brank	Acreage	Listed Species Presence
	GLNHR			NL
I-64 LEXINGTON AVENUE	Conservation Site	B3	3	NL
FORD HOLLOW BARREN	Conservation Site	B4	27	NL
DUNLAP CREEK	Conservation Site	B3	6	NL
BENNETTS RUN CLEARCUTS	Conservation Site	B3	2,229	FL
LUKES MOUNTAIN SHALE BARRENS	Conservation Site	B3	31	FL
Natural Heritage Conservation Sites within Search Radius				

Site-Name	Group-Name	common-name	scientific-name	GRANK	SRANK	Fed Status	st status	EO Rank	last obs date	precision
	Vertebrate Animal	Roughhead Shiner	Notropis semperasper	G2G3	S2S3	SOC		E	1989-10-13	M
DUNLAP CREEK	Natural Community	Central Appalachian Shale Barren	Central Appalachian Shale Barren	G3G4	SNR			B	1987-06-22	S
DUNLAP CREEK	Vascular Plant	Yellow Nail-wort	Paronychia virginica	G4	S1			E	1981-07-20	S
FORD HOLLOW BARREN	Vascular Plant	Yellow Nail-wort	Paronychia virginica	G4	S1			B	1998-07-29	S
I-64 LEXINGTON AVENUE	Vascular Plant	Kankakee Globe-mallow	Iliamna remota	G1Q	S1	SOC		D	1998	S
LUKES MOUNTAIN SHALE BARRENS	Natural Community	Central Appalachian Shale Barren	Central Appalachian Shale Barren	G3G4	SNR			B	2001-07-26	
LUKES MOUNTAIN SHALE BARRENS	Natural Community	Central Appalachian Shale Barren	Central Appalachian Shale Barren	G3G4	SNR			BC	2001-07-26	
LUKES MOUNTAIN SHALE BARRENS	Vascular Plant	Shale-barren Rockcress	Arabis serotina	G2	S2	LE	LT	D	2001-07-26	S

Natural Heritage Resources within Search Radius



Quads: COVINGTON

MeadWestvaco Covington

Company: DEQ-West Central
Regional Office

Counties: Alleghany, City of Covington

Lat/Long: 374759/795932



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

The project mapped as part of this report has been searched against the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area indicated for this project. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in Biotics files, **NATURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED** within two miles of the indicated project boundaries.

You have submitted this project to DCR for a more detailed review for potential impacts to natural heritage resources. DCR will review the submitted project to identify the specific natural heritage resources in the vicinity of the proposed project. Using the expertise of our biologists, DCR will evaluate whether your specific project is likely to impact these resources, and if so how. DCR's response will indicate whether any negative impacts are likely and, if so, make recommendations to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate these impacts. If the potential negative impacts are to species that are state- or federally-listed as threatened or endangered, DCR will also recommend coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies: the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for state-listed animals, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for state-listed plants and insects, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for federally listed plants and animals. If your project is expected to have positive impacts we will report those to you with recommendations for enhancing these benefits.

Please allow up to 30 days for a response.

We will review the project based on the information you included in the Project Info submittal form, which is included in the report that follows. Often additional information can help us make a more accurate and detailed assessment of a project's potential impacts to natural heritage resources. If you have additional information that you believe will help us better assess your project's potential impacts, you may send that information to us. Please refer to the project Title (from the first page of this report) and include this pdf file with any additional information you send us.

Thank you for submitting your project for review to the Virginia Natural Heritage Program through the NH Data Explorer. Should you have any questions or concerns about DCR, the Data Explorer, or this report, please contact the Natural Heritage Project Review Unit at 804-371-2708.

its.

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources



David A. Johnson
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Division of Natural Heritage
217 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010
(804) 786-7951

December 19, 2011

Susan Edwards
DEQ-WCRO
3019 Peters Creek Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

Re: VA0003646, Mead Westvaco Covington WWTP

Dear Ms. Edwards:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the Roughhead shiner (*Notropis semperasper*, G2G3/S2S3/SOC/NL) has been documented within the mixing zone. The Roughhead shiner is endemic to the Valley and Ridge Province within the upper James River drainage, and occupies warm, high quality streams and small rivers with clear water (Jenkins & Burkhead, 1993). Please note that the Roughhead shiner is currently classified as a species of special concern by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); however this designation has no legal status.

Threats to this species include impoundment, pulp mill effluent, and competition with the introduced Telescope shiner (*Notropis telescopus*) (Burkhead & Jenkins, 1991). Turbidity and siltation are suspected to be limiting factors to the distribution of the Roughhead shiner (Jenkins & Burkhead, 1975). As a result, increased siltation due to construction activities may adversely impact this species.

To minimize impacts to aquatic resources, DCR recommends the use of uv/ozone to replace chlorination disinfection and utilization of new technologies as they become available to improve water quality.

There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

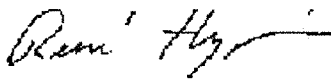
Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please contact DCR for an update on this natural heritage information if a significant amount of time passes before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Shirl Dressler at (804) 367-6913.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 804-371-2708. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rene' Hypes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

S. Rene' Hypes
Project Review Coordinator

Cc: Tylan Dean, USFWS

Literature Cited

Burkhead, N.M. and R.E. Jenkins. 1991. Roughhead shiner. In Virginia's Endangered Species: Proceedings of a Symposium. K. Terwilliger ed. The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Jenkins, R.E., and N.M. Burkhead. 1975. Distribution and aspects of life history and morphology of the cyprinid fish *Notropis semperasper* endemic to the upper James River drainage, Virginia. Chesapeake Science 16:178-191.

Jenkins, R.E., and N.M. Burkhead. 1993. Freshwater fishes of Virginia. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland. p. 404.